

HANDBOOK OF PHONOLOGICAL DATA
FROM A SAMPLE OF THE WORLD'S LANGUAGES

A Report of the Stanford Phonology Archive

Compiled and edited by

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	280 Sinhalese	280 Sinhalese	280 Sinhalese
280	01 p ⁰¹ *[phi] [p-unreleased] ⁶⁰	20 d/j-fricative-long ^{02 07}	
280	02 p-long ⁰²	21 phi ^{08 30 61} (loan,allo) */p/	51 iota ¹⁶
280	03 b ⁰³ [beta] ⁶¹	22 s ¹⁰	52 i-long
280	04 b-long ⁰²	23 s-hacek ^{11 31} (loan)	53 e-mid
280	05 t ^{01 04} [t-unreleased] ⁶⁰ [theta] ⁶¹	24 m ¹² [v-nasalized] ⁶¹	54 e-long
280	06 t-long ⁰²	25 m-long ⁰²	55 a-front ¹⁶
280	07 d ^{03 04} [eth] ⁶¹	26 n ^{12 32} *[eng] [n-dental] ⁶² [n-retroflex] ⁶³	56 ash-long
280	08 d-long ⁰²	27 n-long ⁰²	57 schwa ³⁷ (restricted)
280	09 t-retroflex ^{01 05} [t-retroflex-unreleased] ⁶⁰	28 n-palatal ³³ (loan)	58 schwa-long ³⁸ (loan)
280	10 t-retroflex-long ⁰²	29 eng ^{06 64} (restricted,allo,neutral) */n/	59 a
280	11 d-retroflex ^{03 05}	30 l [l-dental] ⁶² [l-retroflex] ⁶³	60 a-long
280	12 d-retroflex-long ⁰²	31 l-long ⁰²	61 upsilon ^{17 18}
280	13 k ^{01 06} [k-unreleased] ⁶⁰ [x] ⁶¹	32 r-flap ^{13 34} [r-approximant-voiceless] ^{14 65}	62 u-long ^{17 18}
280	14 k-long ⁰²	33 h-voice ¹⁵	63 o-mid ¹⁸
280	15 g ^{03 06} [gamma] ⁶¹	34 s-long ⁰²	64 o-long ¹⁸
280	16 g-long ⁰²	35 n-palatal-long ^{02 36} (loan,limited)	65 yod ³⁹
280	17 t/c-fricative ⁰⁷		66 v-approximant ^{20 40 61} [beta-approximant] ⁶⁶ (free)
280	18 t/c-fricative-long ^{02 07}		67 ash-long-nasalized (limited)
280	19 d/j-fricative ⁰⁷		68 a-long-nasalized (limited)
280	\$a Sinhalese \$d Indic \$e Ceylon \$f 8 million \$g Merritt Ruhlen\$g Gary Holland (review) \$g John Crothers (editor)		
280	\$a Coates, W. A. and M.W.S. de Silva \$b 1960 \$c The Segmental Phonemes of Sinhalese \$d University of Ceylon Review 18.163-175		
280	\$a NASALIZED VOWELS \$A "Sinhalese has no nasal vowel phonemes. Two nasal vowels occur, [a-long-nasalized] and [ash-long-nasalized]; the nasalization is light, rather less than that of the nasal vowel phonemes of French, Portuguese, or Hindi. The two occur in only three expressions: [h-voice.a-long-nasalized] 'ok,' [a-long-nasalized] 'oh,' and [ash-long-nasalized] 'huh'.... Nasalized vowels may occur when a nasal consonant has been elided by weakened articulation, ...but this is a matter of allophonic variation." (p.173)		
280	\$a STRESS \$A "Stress in Sinhalese, though not automatic, does not...appear to be phonemic in single words." (p.174)		
280	\$a SYLLABLE \$A (C)V(:)(C) \$A "Most of the words in which clusters occur are not native Sinhalese words; Sinhalese has a marked preference for simple alternations of the CVCV type." (p.170) The medial C may be long, the long C being in many cases a reflex of an earlier consonant cluster.		

- 280 01 \$A "Voiceless stops may be slightly aspirated initially, but much less so than in English; in other positions they are unaspirated." (p.164)
- 280 02 \$A "Long consonants occur in Sinhalese, but only in medial position.... While they are phonetically long, they may be considered as doubled from a phonemic point of view." (p.168)
- 280 03 \$A "Voiced stops are fully voiced in all positions." (p.164)
- 280 04 \$A /t, d/ are "articulated by the tip of the tongue against the upper teeth." (p.165)
- 280 05 \$A "The retroflex stops...are articulated by curling the tip of the tongue back to make contact with the hard palate just back of the tooth-ridge." (p.165)
- 280 06 \$A /k, g, eng/ are "articulated by the back of the tongue against the soft palate." (p.166)
- 280 07 \$A "The palatal affricates /t/c-fricative, d/j-fricative/ are palatal stops released as palatal spirants. For the stop portion the front of the tongue makes contact with the hard palate; the spirant portion is pronounced like /s-hacek/ or its voiced counterpart respectively." (p.166)
- 280 08 \$A "Since the sound [phi] was introduced from English [f], it is odd that it should have this bilabial pronunciation." (p.165)
- 280 10 \$A /s/ is "a voiceless groove sibilant, articulated with the tip of the tongue approaching the tooth ridge." (p.165)
- 280 11 \$A /s-hacek/ is "pronounced with the blade of the tongue." (p.166)
- 280 12 \$A "The length of the nasal in a cluster of single nasal plus voiced stop varies from normal to very short." (p.169)
- 280 13 \$A "/r-flap/ is a voiced flap or trill consisting of one or two taps with the tip of the tongue against the tooth-ridge." (p.165)
- 280 14 \$A [r-approximant-voiceless]: "The tip of the tongue is raised towards the tooth-ridge or even a point slightly further forward, while the front of the tongue is depressed. In sound it somewhat resembles the voiceless portion of the /r/ in the usual American pronunciation of 'tree.'" (p.165)
- 280 15 \$A /h-voice/ "usually has partial voicing." (p.168)
- 280 16 \$A /iota, a-front/ are "somewhat retracted." (p.172)
- 280 17 \$A /upsilon/ and /u-long/ are somewhat advanced. (p.172)
- 280 18 \$A For the back vowels "the lips are very little if at all protruded." (p.172)
- 280 20 \$A "[v-approximant] may be either bilabial, like /upsilon/, or labiodental, but the tongue-position is always mid central, not high back as for /upsilon/." (p.174)
- 280 30 \$A /phi/ "occurs only in borrowed words, and many speakers regularly substitute /p/ for it." (p.164)
- 280 31 \$A /s-hacek/ "occurs almost exclusively in loan-words from Sanskrit and English, and, particularly in the former, many speakers regularly substitute /s/ for it; but, probably owing to the influence of English, the use of /s-hacek/ seems to be gaining." (p.166)
- 280 32 \$A /n/ does not occur word finally. (p.168)
- 280 33 \$A Short /n-palatal/ occurs only in borrowed words. (p.166)
- 280 34 \$A /r-flap/ occurs finally only in borrowed words. (p.165)
- 280 36 \$A /n-palatal-long/ only occurs between vowels and only in loans or in future verbal forms. In the latter case it may be replaced by /n-long/, the palatal "usually occurring in more popular speech." (p.166)
- 280 37 \$A /schwa/ contrasts with /a/ only in initial syllables, where /schwa/ is infrequent, and word finally, due to the shortening of word final /a-long/. Otherwise /schwa/ occurs only before single consonants (but not adjacent to /h-voice/), and /a/ occurs elsewhere. (p.172f)
- 280 38 \$A "/schwa/ occurs long only in words borrowed from English." (p.171)
- 280 39 \$A /yod/ occurs only initially and medially, but never next to /iota/. (p.174)
- 280 40 \$A /v-approximant/ occurs initially and medially, but not finally (p.165); "never occurs next to /upsilon/ or /o-mid/." (p.174)

- 280 60 \$A "Finally the voiceless stops are usually unexploded." (p.164)
- 280 61 \$A "Sinhalese has a strong tendency towards weakened articulation of single consonants between vowels. This applies to the nasals, to all stops except retroflex, and to /v-approximant/. The stops may be so weakly articulated as to emerge as the homorganic spirants; /m/ becomes [v] with nasalization, while /n/ may remain only as nasalization of the vowels; [v-approximant] is reduced to a slight murmur. The weakening tendency is especially strong when the consonant occurs before a stressed vowel, in which case it may disappear completely." (p.168)
- 280 62 \$A /n, l/ are dental before dental stops. (p.165)
- 280 63 \$A /n, l/ are retroflexed before retroflex stops. (p.165)
- 280 64 \$A /eng/ only occurs finally, before velar stops, and before consonants other than stops. Generally no other nasal occurs finally, certainly not /n/ or /n-palatal/. However, one learned word and some loans have /m/ finally. Also, /n/ and /eng/ contrast before /yod.V/ in learned words. (p.166f)
- 280 65 \$A /r-flap/ is realized as [r-approximant-voiceless] "initially." (p.165)
- 280 66 \$A [beta-approximant] is a free variant of /v-approximant/ in initial position only. (p.165)

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